



Maximum : 29°C SUNSET Today 06:55 PM
Minimum : 18°C SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:05 AM
Humidity : 72%



News Digest

Searches Conducted In Hazratbal, Soura

Srinagar: Government Forces Tuesday launched a cordon-and-search operation in Hazratbal and Soura localities of Srinagar outskirts. Sources said that combined forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in Dar Mohalla locality of Gasoo area. Before the operation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Singh paid obeisance at Hazratbal shrine and for that reason there was a massive security beef up. Sources said the operation was launched following the inputs about the movement of suspected militants in the area. A police official said that random searches were conducted in Dar Mohalla, however, nothing objectionable was found. A search operation was also conducted in Soura area of Srinagar. CRPF and QRT teams conducted these searches, officials said adding that operation concluded peacefully.

Non-Locals Organize Ganesh Rally



Srinagar: Over a dozen non-local Hindus mostly females organized Ganesh Chaturthi in Kashmir capital Srinagar. The devotees started rally from Haft Chinara area of Srinagar. They were carrying the idols of Lord Ganesh. "It is probably for the first time that we organized this rally here. It's good to be part of the rally," a non-local Hindu Akash Kumar from Punjab said. Ganesh Chaturthi is a Hindu festival celebrating the arrival of Ganesh to earth from Kailash. P-02

14 employees suspended in B'pora

Bandipora: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed Tuesday suspended 14 employees for remaining unauthorisedly absent from their duties while a show cause notice was served to five District Officers. An official spokesman said that on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, a team of officers led by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Reyaz Ahmad Beigh conducted a surprise inspection of various government offices stationed at Minisecretariat Bandipora to check the attendance of employees. He said that 14 employees were found absent from the duties and were put under suspension immediately. Five District Officers. P-02

2 Held For Baramulla Grenade Blast

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two persons "involved" in grenade blast at Baramulla on an army convey which missed the target to explode on roadside in which seven civilians were injured. A police spokesperson said that subsequently a case (FIR No 147/2020) under section 307 IPC, 7/27 I.A Act, 18,20,39 ULA(P) Act was lodged and investigation was set into motion. "During the course of investigation, on the basis of human and technical intelligence, a joint operation was launched by 46 RR, 53 CRPF and Baramulla Police in which two suspects namely Fayaz Ahmad Kumar alias P-02

...SITUATION IN LADAKH 'SENSITIVE'

China, India Deploy Tanks, Additional Troops

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: As Brigade Commander level talks between India and China ended, the situation along the Line of Actual Control in the southern bank of the Pangong Tso in Ladakh was described as tense. Both sides reportedly deployed tanks and additional troops after the Indian Army did a "tit-for-tat" by dominating the "entire" southern bank of the Pangong Tso over the weekend.

While the outcome of the Brigadier level meeting at Chushul for the second successive day remained inconclusive, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a high-level review meeting in the capital on Tuesday told the armed forces to fortify their positions and defend the territory. The second flag meeting between ground commanders took place in the wake of a second Chinese 'provocative action' on August 31, which was thwarted once again by the Indian troops.



According to media reports it was late-night movement Saturday of Chinese tanks stationed in Moldo, opposite the Chushul sector, which made the Indian Army give the go-ahead to one of its specialised units to capture certain hilltops near the southern banks of the lake, claimed by both India and China as part of their territory. They described the Indian move as "tit-for-tat action" to

Indo-Pak Armies Trade Gunfire Along LoC

The armies of India and Pakistan on Tuesday exchanged gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Gurez sector of north Kashmir's Bandipora district after Pakistan army targeted forward defence locations at Bagtore. Military officials said that the Pakistan Army violated the ceasefire along the LoC this evening and targeted forward defense P-02

dominate the entire southern bank of the Pangong Tso just as with the northern banks. Sources in the defence and security establishment, P-02

THE SITUATION REMAINS SENSITIVE. ALL NECESSARY STEPS THAT NEED TO BE taken to ensure that defences are in place have been taken. The forces remain on a heightened state of alert,"

14 More Fall Victim To Covid-19 In J&K, Toll 719

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 14 more covid-19 related deaths in last 24 hours, taking the overall fatality count to 719 in J&K. Among them, two deaths were reported from Jammu division and 12 from Kashmir Valley, official sources said. Regarding the deaths from Valley, they said, five were reported from Pulwama, two each from Srinagar, Ganderbal and Budgam besides one from Bandipora. They said a 50-year-old woman from Wislapora Budgam died at SKIMS Soura, five days after

525 New Cases Take J&K Tally Past 38000

Fifty-one travelers were among 525 covid-19 infections reported in Jammu and Kashmir in last 24 hours, taking the overall tally to 38223. Among the cases 241 were confirmed from Jammu Division and 284 from Kashmir including four pregnant woman and three minors. Giving breakup of the cases, they said, P-02

she was admitted to the tertiary care hospital. A 55-year-old woman from Batpora Budgam who was admitted on 29 August, died at SMHS Hospital, they said. A 65-year-old man from HMT Srinagar who was admitted to

SMHS hospital on August 26 as a case of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), hypertension and bilateral community acquired pneumonia, died on Tuesday, they said. A 72-year-old from Eidgah Srinagar was brought to P-02

JK Govt Withdraws 50 Percent 'Corona Tax' on Liquor

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday withdrew the additional excise duty of 50 per cent levied on liquor after the outbreak of COVID-19 as a new excise policy for the remainder of 2020-2021 financial year came into force in the Union Territory, a senior government officer said. Excise Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan said the new policy for the first time provides for reservation of 12 per cent to six categories of people, including ex-servicemen, those belonging weaker sections and unemployed youths, in opening bars and restaurants at tourist destinations across the Union Territory. "The additional 50 per cent ex-

KCCI Seeks Business Revival Package

President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries KCCI Sheikh Ashiq Tuesday held a virtual meeting with the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with a demand for a comprehensive economic revival package for P-02

cise duty on liquor (which was levied in May), commonly known as corona tax, has been withdrawn from today after the implementation of the new excise policy," Shavan told reporters here. P-02

Illegal Shopping Plaza In Srinagar ACB Raids Residences Of 4 SMC Officers

SRINAGAR: Anti-Corruption Bureau carried out raids at the residences of four SMC officers and recovered "incriminating documents" in connection with the construction of illegal construction of shopping Plaza at Kursoo Rajbagh here. As per a statement issued here to GNS, a Joint Surprise Check (JSC) was conducted by ACB Police Station Srinagar, to look into the allegations of illegal construction of Abdullah Shopping Plaza at Kursoo Rajbagh, Srinagar. "During JSC it was surfaced that vide No. 2926 of 2018 dated 05-08-2018 building permission was issued by Srinagar Municipal Corporation in favour of Mohammad Abdullah Dar son of Abdul Kabir Dar of Rajbagh for extension of already existing P-02

8664 Persons Lodged In J&K Jails

'Occupancy rate was 126 % at year-end' SRINAGAR: An official report has revealed that 8664 persons were admitted in jails of Jammu & Kashmir during 2019. The report- Prison Statistics of India, 2019- unveiled by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) lays bare that 8664 persons were admitted in jails of J&K UT during last year. The NCRB comes under administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs. J&K has 15 jails, of which two are central jails, 10 district jails, two sub-jails and one special jail. According to the data, P-02

South Kashmir Militants Posses Only Pistols: Army

'Security Forces Have Successfully Blocked The Supply Chain Of Weapons To Militants'

Agencies

BARAMULLA: The army on Tuesday said that Pakistan has adopted a new trend to drop arms and ammunition close to the Line of Control (LoC) to fuel militancy in the Valley but the same has been thwarted by the security agencies jointly. Addressing a press conference, General officer Commanding (GOC) of 19 Infantry division, Baramulla, Major General Varinder Vats said that Pakistan is frustrated due to blockade of infiltration and

cooperation between the security agencies had forced it to push more advanced weapons into the Valley. "But the halt in supply chain has left militants high and dry. In South Kashmir, militants possess only pistols," he said. He said that Pakistan is unrelenting in its effort to push in arms to strengthen militancy in Kashmir but alert troops along the LoC have been able to defeat the attempts. The tactics used by Pakistan to smuggle weapons into India after facing frustration as P-02

Strict 'Hard On Crime' Attitude Needed Against Drug Abuse: HC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K High Court on Tuesday underlined the need for strict 'hard on crime' attitude against the instances of drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir even as it asked the courts below to have "due regard to the harmful socio-economic consequences" while dealing with such matters. Dismissing a criminal revision filed by an accused, Khurshid Ahmad Wani of Shilvath Sumbal against orders cancelling his bail by trial court, a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said the Courts, while dealing with these matters, are required to have due regard to the harmful socio-economic consequences as well as legislation enacted by the Parliament aimed at curbing the ever-increasing menace of 'Drug Trafficking' which, if not checked, has the potential of P-02

Covid-19 No Substantial Change For Bail: HC

The High Court on Tuesday rejected bail application of accused in a murder case, observing that spread of Covid-19 cannot be deemed to be a "substantial change in the fact situation." The accused who had sought bail were facing trial in a case- FIR No. 135/2012, registered against them by P-02

HC Extends Hearing Of Cases In Virtual Mode

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday extended the hearing of cases in virtual mode till September 20 for courts in red zone areas to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Srinagar wing of the high court falls in the red zone. The judges can hear the cases in online mode inside their P-02

In FOCUS / 'Have I Lost My Eyesight': Lament After Mugged Mourning In Kashmir

Auqib Javed

'PAPA,' asked Tanveer, 16, to his father Nazir Ahmad, 'when will I be able to see again? Have I lost my eyesight?' His father, a shopkeeper by profession, didn't have any answers. All he said to his son was to keep faith in Allah. "Gobra, sui chu gash nen'e woul ti, ti din'e woul ti" (God is the only one who gives and takes away light of eyes). This tear-jerking exchange between the eye-banded son and helpless father took place in Ward No. 7 of Srinagar's State (SMHS) Hospital.

On Saturday, Tanveer was part of a Muharram procession at Hamdaniya Colony in Bemina, on the outskirts of Srinagar, when police fired pellets and teargas shells to disperse the procession. And soon, this class 10th student, writhing in pain presently, became another pellet-perforated young face of the valley. His viral image prompted netizens to condemn the latest spree of "pellet terror" in Kashmir. Doctors who operated on Tanveer say pellets have ruptured his right eye, damaging his optic nerve, while one pellet has made a hole in his left eye.



In the same ward, Suhail Abbas Mir, 20, a class 12 student, is lying silent in his bed.

The boy has four pellets stuck in his right eye. He was operated upon late on Saturday night and is scheduled to undergo another surgery in 15 days, said his father. The boy along with other friends was arranging refreshment for mourners in Bemina on the day of pellet attack. "Police fired pellets and teargas shells at us," Suhail told Kashmir Observer over phone. "They were ruthless against mourners." More than 90 mourners, including young boys, were injured. Most of them were first taken to nearby Imam Hussain hospital for treat-

ment where from they were referred to the SMHS hospital. According to reports, many victims have not gone to the hospital fearing police action. Earlier, many videos of mourners removing pellets at home went viral on social media. "Police easily get the record from the hospital so it was better to treat myself at home," said another victim of "pellet horror", wishing not to be named. "But unlike Tanveer and Suhail, I'm fortunate enough not to suffer a crippling eye injury." Many mourners, whom Kashmir Observer spoke to, said they witnessed this kind of force against the mourners for the first time. "Although, the restrictions are there for decades but we never witnessed this kind of P-02

From Front page...

China, India Deploy Tanks,...

however, underlined that the Indian move was defensive in nature and at no place had the Indian Army crossed beyond its specified Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Quoting sources, The Print reported the advance of the Chinese tanks has been limited because India has occupied important heights in the area with Anti Tank Guided Missiles systems (ATGM) in place.

"The situation remains sensitive. All necessary steps that need to be taken to ensure that defences are in place have been taken. The forces remain on a heightened state of alert," a source, according to The Print, said when asked about inputs that said additional artillery, tanks and equipment have been moved.

Earlier India said, the Chinese side has "engaged in provocative military manoeuvres in the late night of 29th and on 30th August in an attempt to change the status quo in the South Bank area of Pangong Lake".

In a statement, China's defense ministry accused Indian troops of crossing established lines of control and creating provocations along the southern shore of Pangong Lake and nearby areas.

"The Chinese military is now taking necessary actions in response, will closely follow developments and resolutely safeguard sovereignty over Chinese territory, along with peace and stability along the border," it said.

Indian military experts said the latest incident occurred in the Chushul sector, where the two sides were generally respecting each other's positions.

"We never had any problem in this place and we hold it pretty strongly," said Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, who served as the Indian military's northern commander. "After relative calm, China has suddenly opened a fresh, brand new front. It's a huge provocation."

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory and separated it from Kashmir in August 2019, ending its semi-autonomous status and straining the already prickly relationship between New Delhi and Beijing. China was among the countries to strongly condemn the move, raising it at international forums including the U.N. Security Council. According to some Indian and Chinese strategic experts, India's move exacerbated existing tensions with China, leading to the deadly June border clash.

Indo-Pak Armies Trade Gunfire...

locations in Tarabal Bagtore area of Gurez sector. They said that the Indian Army personnel were giving a "strong and befitting" response to the ceasefire violation. "No one has been injured in the firing, which has created panic among the people living near forward areas," he said.

He further stated that the shelling has been going on from both sides.

12.5 Lakh Domicile Certificates...

post under the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir following amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act, 2010.

Kansal reaffirmed that the rules provide a simple and time bound procedure for the issuance of the Domicile Certificate so that no one is put to any inconvenience, besides there are provisions for time bound issuance for certificates including an Appellate Authority whose orders will be binding as well as who has revisional powers.

"The rules have a provision that applications for grant of Domicile Certificate can be submitted either physically or electronically online. The Competent Authority can also issue domicile certificate(s) electronically," he said.

He also mentioned that the Permanent Residents of the erstwhile State of J&K in whose favour Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) has been issued by the competent authority before October 31, 2019 shall be eligible for receiving their Domicile Certificates on the basis of PRCs alone and no other additional document shall be required for such residents. Similarly, he noted that for Kashmiri migrants, a very simple procedure has been prescribed for them to get the Domicile certificate on production of either a PRC or Certificate of registration of migrant and added that further for bonafide migrants and bonafide displaced persons who have migrated but have not registered with the relief department, there is a special limited provision for registration.

He further explained that in order to further simplify the process and ensure issuance of domicile in the bare minimum time, the Government has issued a notification SO 263 dated: 25th of August, 2020 whereby the Competent Authority has been bound to issue the Domicile Certificates provided under clause 1(a) and clause 4(a) within a period of five working days from the date such application is received by it.

Postal Delivery Of Domicile...

certificates of some of the applicants of Tehsil Jammu Khas and Bahu to Gaurav Srivastava, Director Postal Services Jammu.

The service has commenced in District Jammu w.e.f. September 1, 2020. Among others present at the launch ceremony were S. Jasmeet Singh, Assistant Commissioner Nazool and J.R. Angural, Senior Superintendent of Post Office Jammu.

"This service will be very useful as it will not only eliminate the delays in delivery of Domicile Certificates to applicants but will also minimize the need to visit the office of issuing authorities", Deputy Commissioner Jammu said at the launch. She further informed that for facilitating the public, preprinted envelopes have been made available at all the 21 post offices of District Jammu at a very nominal cost of Rs. 28/-, which may be bought by the applicant from their respective post offices and be attached along with the application form after mentioning the complete address along with the accurate pincode.

Tehsil wise List of Post offices where the preprinted envelopes are available, has been made available on the official website of District Jammu <https://jammu.nic.in>, she informed.

Director Postal Services informed that since these services will be localized service, all efforts will be made to deliver the domiciles on the same day to the applicant. He also informed that sufficient numbers of preprinted envelopes have been made available at all the 21 post offices of District Jammu. Applicants can approach the post office of their respective area for purchase of the preprinted envelope. He further informed that the Postal Department will make all provisions to collect the issued domiciles from the respective Tehsils for their onward delivery to the applicant. All the non-delivered envelopes will be returned back to the issuing authority.

14 More Fall Victim To Covid-19...

SMHS hospital this morning and was declared brought dead by the doctors, they said, adding, "He was Covid-19 positive".

A 70-year-old from Sumbal Bandipora, who was admitted to the hospital on August 31 as a case of bilateral CAP died today, they said. A 66-year-old woman from Manshal Ganderbal, admitted SKIMS Soura on August 27 died today, they said.

A 60-year-old man from Ahan Ganderbal, admitted on August 24 died this afternoon. "He was suffering with bilateral CAP and died due to cardiopulmonary arrest," a doctor at the tertiary care hospital said.

Officials said that five deaths were confirmed from Pulwama and two from Jammu division with one of the victim—67-year-old man from Samba district.

The five deaths from Pulwama include 75-year-old man from Khan-gund Satoora, 78-year-old man from Tral Payeen, 62-year-old man from Mandoora, a 50-year-old woman from Panzoo and 65-year-old man from Pnglish.

With these deaths, officials said, 719 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 649 were from the Valley while 70 others from Jammu division.

Srinagar district with 223 deaths tops the list followed by Baramulla (100), Budgam (62), Anantnag (50), Pulwama (54), Kupwara (49), Jammu (47), Kulgam (35), Shopian (28), Bandipora (26), Ganderbal (23), Rajouri (5), Doda (4), Poonch (4), Kathua (4), Udhampur (2), Samba (2) and Ramban (1).

525 New Cases Take J&K...

Srinagar reported 95 cases, Pulwama 36, Budgam 17, Baramulla 14, Anantnag 26, Bandipora 28, Kupwara 23, Kulgam 9, Shopian 2, Ganderbal 34, Jammu 121, Rajouri 19, Kathua 28, Udhampur 4, Samba 12, Doda 13, Poonch 20, Reasi 12 and Kishtwar 12.

A number of cases were confirmed at SKIMS and CD hospital diagnostic laboratories.

The CD cases include male (29) from Budgam, male (80) from Nowgam,

It's Best To Be True To Oneself: Omar Abdullah In New Book

"I'm Not Indian Enough For Extreme Right-Wing Nationalist Politicians Nor

Kashmiri Enough For Those Who Don't See Kashmir's Future As Part Of India"

NEW DELHI: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah says in a new book that he will neither be.

It is therefore best to be true to oneself, junior Abdullah said in the recently launched India Tomorrow: Conversations with the Next Generation of Political Leaders.

Omar was detained when the government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on August 5 last year.

He said his 232-day detention period has made him bitter, "resentful" and "angry" but it won't change his time-tested stand that Jammu and Kashmir

"is an integral part of India".

"Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. As much as I would like to say that my detention and the circumstances of the 5th of August have caused me to shift my thinking on that, it hasn't

"Because the position I've taken takes into account all sorts of factors, and I do not believe that Jammu & Kashmir has a future for itself outside of its relationship with India," Abdullah said in an interview to the authors, Pradeep Chhibber and Harsh Shah.

The book gives readers a snapshot of contemporary Indian politics through interviews of 20 of the country's most prominent next-generation politicians.

I have reconciled myself to the

fact that I will never be Indian enough for extreme right-wing nationalist politicians. But then I'll also not be Kashmiri enough for those who don't see Kashmir's future as part of India. And, therefore, it is best to be true to oneself," Abdullah said.

Nothing, he stressed, justifies "what India did to J&K on the 5th of August, 2019".

Not mincing his words, the 50-year-old politician said he believes Jammu and Kashmir has been treated "very, very badly" and "every single promise made to it has been broken".

"... it's going to be very difficult for people like me to continue to justify why I believe Jammu & Kashmir must be a part of India.

Delhi hasn't left us with much to talk about," he added.

That said, Abdullah is very clear that he won't ask the government of the day to reverse its position on the revocation of Article 370 and Article 35 A or convert the newly formed UT back into its original position of a state.

"... why would I ask Mr. Modi to reverse what Mr. Modi has done? It's stupid. It's pointless. It's just tokenism. It's the worst form of politics because all I'd be doing is trying to appease the voters, knowing full well that nothing will come out of it. And I don't want to do that. I think the politics of appeasement is the worst thing I can do to people here," he explained.

Ashiq also sought interest waiver of business accounts since August 5 lockdown.

Ashiq also informed the Finance Minister about the formation of a committee for economic revival of J&K on the directions of LG Sinha after KCCI raised the issue with him.

"We sought her support to the LG administration for the economic revival package. We have submitted memorandums to GOI also about those issues which we projected with LG also."

I informed her that KCCI will always advocate opening of businesses, not their closure, he said. "More than half a million unemployed youth has been added to the unemployment youth numbers after August 5. I advocated for revival packages of all sectors."

South Kashmir Militants...

all its infiltration bids have failed and that it was now trying to push in weapons by dumping the same in the areas close to the LoC, the army officer said.

"Pakistan task the Over ground workers (OGWs) who reside in villages close to the LoC to deliver the weapons to militants. But so far all such bids have failed," he said, while referring to the multiple hideouts busted by the army in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Talking about the arrest of two local youth believed to be involved in yesterday's grenade attack in Baramulla, the GOC said that two arrests have been made apparently and these individuals are suspected to be involved in the grenade lobbing. "We can't connect the two with today's development of busting multiple hideouts," the GOC 19 Infantry said. KNO

Strict 'Hard On Crime' Attitude...

not only seriously destroying the public health, but also the health of the nation as a whole," the court said.

"The legislative mandate, therefore, is required to be adhered and followed by all concerned in its letter and spirit," the court said, adding, "It is to be borne in mind that in murder cases, the accused commit murder of one or two persons only, while those who are dealing in drugs are instrumental in causing death or inflicting death blow to a number of vulnerable innocent youths. Such persons are a hazard to the society and they, even if released temporarily, in all probability, are likely to continue their nefarious activities of trafficking and/or dealing in intoxicants clandestinely."

The bench said, in this backdrop, the Courts, while dealing with these matters, are required to have due regard to the harmful socio-economic consequences as well as the health hazards which accompany the menace of trafficking illegally in dangerous drugs and ensure implementation of the law in the same spirit with which it has been enacted by the Parliament.

"The menace of 'Drug addiction' is a complex illness with far reaching consequences for those who know, work with, and support the drug addicted individual(s)," the court said, adding, "Families suffer due to the cultural and social factors of drug behavior, including their own understanding of the disease process and the addict's behavior due to drug abuse; draining of family resources; shrinking from responsibilities, sickness and dysfunctional relationships; distortion of interpersonal family relationships; violence and death faced as a consequence of drug abuse, etc."

The cost of drug abuse, the court said, is enormous and multifaceted which poses severe threat to the very social fabric of the Society.

"The instances of drug abuse are required to be dealt with a strict 'Hard on Crime' attitude. Besides, the trafficking/ smuggling of drugs has flared sporadically in the recent years transcending geographical boundaries," the court said, adding, "Realizing the danger of this menace, the Apex Court has been repeatedly reminding/ advising the Courts that taking a liberal approach is uncalled for while exercising the power to grant bail in cases falling under the NDPS Act." (GNS)

Covid-19 No Substantial...

Police Station, Sadder, in connection with murder of one person— Ghulam Mohammad Shah of Budshah Nagar.

The accused, facing charges under Sections 302, 307, 34, 102-B, 326, 324 and 506 of the erstwhile Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), had sought bail on account of the spread of the Covid-19 in central jail.

"On consideration of the facts of the case and the law governing the subject of grant of bail, I am of the view that the successive or subsequent bail application on the same very facts/ grounds on which the earlier one was rejected by the Court of competent jurisdiction cannot be entertained, unless it is shown that there is a substantial change in the fact situation or in the law," a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said "Change in fact situation would never mean any new or additional ground which was earlier available to the accused, but that was not taken on the earlier occasion," the court said.

Referring to the Supreme Court judgment— 'State of Maharashtra v. Captain Buddhikota Subbarao—the court said that the top court observed that "when we speak of change, we mean a substantial one, which has a direct impact on the earlier decision and not merely a cosmetic change which are of little or of no consequence."

"The change on hand, there is no change of circumstance, whereas, it is a case whereupon consideration of the material on record and hearing the submissions of the counsel for parties, the Court of competent jurisdiction consciously rejected the prayer for grant of bail of the applicants/ accused on merits".

"This spread of COVID-19 cannot be deemed to be a substantial change in the 'fact situation', more so, when the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have already taken considerable measures for the protection of health and welfare of the prisoners/ inmates in order to restrict the transmission of COVID-19 in different jails including the Central Jail, Srinagar," the court said

The court said that it was settled principle of law that grant or refusal of bail has to be made having regard to the nature of the crime, the circumstances under which it was considered, the background of the accused, the possibility of his/ her jumping bail, the impact that his/ her release may make on the Prosecution witness(es), its impact on the Society and possibilities of retribution.

"The analogy for entertaining a subsequent or second application for bail, when it was earlier rejected, the consideration would be the same," the court said.

While rejecting their bail plea, the court left it open for the accused to approach the 'High Powered Committee', as constituted by the Government in compliance of the directions passed by the apex Court for seeking their release on parole

or interim bail.

The application, if made, shall be considered and decided by the said Committee in accordance with the directions passed by the Supreme Court "expeditiously", the court added.

HC Extends Hearing Of Cases...

chambers or from their residences. "After taking into consideration all prevailing factors due to spread of COVID-19 infection and with a view to prevent the infection in red zone areas declared by the Governments of Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Hon'ble Chief Justice has been pleased to direct that Circular No. 6/RG dated 11-07-2020, read with order No. 183 dated 16-08-2020, shall remain in force till 20th of September, 2020, an order issued by the Registrar General of the High Court reads. Jammu and Kashmir has recorded nearly 37,700 COVID positive cases so far, while the death toll due to the pandemic has crossed 700.

ACB Raids Residences...

three storey house after dismantling the existing single storey shops adjacent to the house for plinth area of 560 Sft. and remitted height of 36 ft," it said. The JSC conducted has revealed that Dar under the grab of the order (No. 2926 of 2018), in its utter violation, constructed a four storied commercial complex after dismantling the single storey shops. He constructed the structure separate from existing residential house, it said. "The concerned SMC officials who were duty bound to check and report the construction which was illegal from its very onset. These officials did not stop the construction nor took action under legal provision."

The SMC official instead provided ample opportunity to the beneficiary for completion of four storied commercial structure and intentionally delayed issuance of demolition notice which was served only after completion of structure i.e after gap of 14 months from commencement of illegal construction, it said.

"The officers/ officials of SMC in lieu of pecuniary benefits, under a well-knit conspiracy with beneficiary, by abuse of their official positions, allowed illegal construction of commercial structure with plinth area on ground floor of 1672 Sft, 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor of 1700 Sft with a vertical height of 44.06 Sft and with no setbacks on North. South & West at Kursoo Raibagh and themselves," it said.

Accordingly, the ACB said a case under FIR NO.11/2020 U/S 5 (1) (d), r/w 5(2) of PC Act-2006 Svt. and 120 RPC was registered against the officers/officials of SMC was registered on August 27 last, and in compliance to court order dated 29-08-2020, searches were conducted in residential houses of accused persons—Mehrajdin Bhujia, Ward Officer, at Bemina, Nisar Ahmad Rah, Building Inspector, at Nawab Bazar, Bashir Ahmad Shah, Enforcement Officer, at Peer Bagh areas of Srinagar and Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Building Inspector, at Doru Anantnag and incriminating material/documents has been recovered.

"The investigation of the case is going on," the ACB added.

8664 Persons Lodged In J&K...

as on 31.12.2019 3689 inmates were lodged in J&K jails against the overall capacity of 2910.

This means the overall occupancy rate in jails of J&K was 126.8 percent, which shows overcrowding in the prisons.

According to the report, the occupancy rate in district jails was 136.39 percent, 118.3 percent and 154.44 percent at lone special jail Pulwama. In 2019, Jammu & Kashmir government designated Pulwama jail as "correctional home" where young stone pelters or youths involved in other crimes will be rehabilitated and counselled so that they won't join militancy after their release.

"In exercise of the power conferred by para 2.37 read with para 2.8 of the Manual of the Superintendence and Management of Jails in the state of Jammu and Kashmir (2000), the government hereby classifies district jail Pulwama notified vide notification SRO-211 dated 17.4.2013 as a 'special jail' (correctional home) for the purpose of providing correctional services to the inmates," read the notification issued by then Principal secretary Home, R K Goyal.

According to the report, 12.5 percent inmates in J&K jails were detunes at the end of 2019, which is the third highest in India after Tamil Nadu (38.5 percent) and Gujarat (12.5 %).

Post abrogation of Article 370 by BJP-led central government, the government had detained more than 500 persons under the controversial Public Safety Act, which allows detention for a period ranging from three months to two years—(KNO)

'Have I Lost My Eyesight'...

repression. We defied the restriction but we didn't pelt stones," said Ghulam Ali, a resident of Bemina's Khomeini Chowk.

While recalling the incident, Ali said it was mayhem all around. "The houses and roads were not visible for an hour, as the teargas shelling engulfed the whole area," he said. "One can only imagine the amount of teargas shells used."

'Provocative Slogans'

However, a police officer told Kashmir Observer that there was "a lot of provocation" from the mourners' end and some "miscreants" pelted stones on police force.

"You must have watched Azadi slogans on different videos," the police officer said, making it curt.

However, many mourners from Bemina asserted that they passed through different localities before reaching Garl Kadal which links Hamdaniya Colony with Khomeini Chowk. Here a posse of policemen intercepted them and prevented the procession from moving towards Imam Bargah.

"When the mourners offered resistance and tried to march towards their destination, the cops resorted to baton-charging and fired teargas canisters to disperse them," said Mohammad Ali, an eyewitness. The mourners, he said, regrouped and continued to carry on with their march. Ali said the situation took an ugly turn when pellet guns were used against the mourners, leaving many injured.

"The police action angered the mourners," Ali said. "They started chanting pro-freedom and anti-India slogans and engaged cops in pitched battles. Due to the clashes, Garl Kadal and adjoining localities turned into a battleground."

'Mild Force Used'

Police, however, claimed that mild force was used to disperse Muharram processions after "some mourners pelted stones on the policemen, injuring dozens".

In a statement, a police spokesperson said the mourners were told that processions were not allowed in wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

"During intense stone pelting more than 15 police personnel were grievously injured, who were immediately hospitalised. The police have exercised maximum restraint despite grave provocation by the miscreants," the police spokesperson claimed.

He said a case under FIR No. 58/2020 stands registered in PS Zadibal and investigation has been taken up.

'A Day of Karbala'

Raqib Ali, an eyewitness, whose cousin Mohammad Danish, was also hit by pellets, alleged that at Zadibal area of Srinagar, the procession on the day of Ashura was initially allowed, only to face "indiscriminate" use of pellets and shells later.

"I saw many women mourners lying on the road with pellet injuries, who were later locally treated," Ali told Kashmir Observer. "It was day of Karbala in Zadibal."

Non-Locals Organize Ganesh...

'Parvat' with his mother Parvati. The festival is marked with the installation of Ganesh clay idols privately in homes, or publicly on elaborate temporary stages. (KNT)

14 employees suspended...

were also put on notice as show cause notice have been served to them, asking them to explain the reason of absence from their offices.

2 Held For Baramulla...

Narsimha of Khanpora Baramulla and Aqib Sharif Bhat alias DK of Syed Kareem Baramulla were detained and after sustained interrogation they revealed that they lobbed the grenade on insistence of (militants) of LeT outfit," the spokesperson said.

"The aim of lobbing the grenade was to disturb order and vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in Baramulla and to motivate the youth into (militants) ranks and their sympathisers."

LG Calls for Making Commercial Floriculture more Remunerative

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 01: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today called for making the commercial floriculture sector more remunerative and employment generative. He directed the Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department for submission of a comprehensive proposal for promotion of commercial floriculture within a period of one month. The Lt Governor passed these directions during the release of the Coffee Table Book of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department titled "J&K in Bloom" here at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar. Sh. Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department was present on the occasion. Underlining the importance of effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Lt Governor directed to take

up the matter with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in connection with the establishment of Hitech Poly Carbonated Green Houses for their suitability in the region during winter months. He directed the Department to provide handholding to those engaged in the sector and ensure that the benefits under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes must reach to every beneficiary. He laid special emphasis on training and exposure visits to progressive States/UTs to keep the officers/field functionaries abreast with latest interventions and technologies in commercial floriculture. On the issue of marketing of flowers, the Lt Governor called for exploring modalities for effective and profitable marketing of flowers and flower products within and outside J&K. The Lt Governor observed that the

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has a glorious heritage, owing to its unique geo-climatic setting and has been endowed with unmatched natural beauty. The department needs to constantly improve its functioning and put in dedicated efforts to further strengthen the network of gardens and parks and upgrade them throughout the J&K, which will ultimately attract more tourists, making J&K one of the prime tourist destinations across the globe. While enquiring about the future course of action of the department, the Lt Governor was appraised about the establishment of Flowering Cherry Theme Garden (SAKURA) on the analogy of Japan in the foothills of Zabarwan along the periphery of Tulip Garden which will serve as an added tourist attraction. Commissioner/Secretary to Govern-

ment, Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department briefed the Lt Governor about the latest developments with regard to the listing of six Mughal Gardens in UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage sites and subsequent conservation and restoration efforts of the department. Highlighting the importance of Tulip Garden as major USP for the attraction of tourists, the Lt Governor was also briefed about the worldwide acknowledgment of Tulip Garden, Srinagar by World Tulip Summit Society, who adjudged the garden as 2nd and 4th Best Tulip Destination in 2015 and 2017 respectively. Pertinently, the Coffee Table Book highlights the role of the department in the promotion of garden tourism and commercial floriculture. It also showcases the ornamental floral wealth of J&K.

240 Hectares Under High-Density Apple Cultivation in Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: About 240 hectares of land has been brought under the High-Density Programme and all steps are being initiated to remove bottlenecks, if any, in the scheme so that the farmers are fully benefited by this innovative programme. This was revealed at a meeting chaired by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, KK Sharma here on Tuesday. He said that steps are afoot for ensuring that the Horticulture and related activities get a fillip by way of various government schemes and interventions so that the quantum of produce gets increased contributing to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was convened to review Apple High density Programme and other schemes which was attended by Director Horticulture Kashmir, Aijaz Bhat, Members of PHD Chamber of Commerce including Showkat Chowdhary, Bilal Kawoosa and Association of fruit grow-

ers of Kashmir led by GM Dar and Farooq Rather. Advisor directed the officers to ensure that the scheme of high-density plantation meant to increase the apple production is implemented in a manner so that the maximum horticulturists get benefited from it. He said that a mechanism should also be formulated so as to make it broad based by actively involving the stakeholders and also incorporating their views and suggestions as well. Advisor stressed to cover all the feasible areas under High Density Programme including Jammu province, which have a high potential for development of horticulture especially Apple. He said that we have to ensure successful implementation of the scheme so that all areas of Jammu and Kashmir are covered having potential of producing Apples. The meeting was told that 240 hectare of land has been brought under the High-Density Programme and all steps are being initiated to

remove bottlenecks, if any, in the scheme so that the farmers are fully benefited by this innovative programme. It was also informed that imported elite clonal root stock has been brought from Netherlands to achieve self-sufficiency in plant production so that dependence on import is minimized and presently 10.90 lakh root stock is available with the Department for multiplication/distribution purpose to Horticulturists. The deputations raised several issues like establishment of laboratories for testing of pesticides, Insecticides and Fungicides, Grant of Subsidy directly to Orchardists through Horticulture department on Rejuvenation, Single window system for establishment of Mini CA Stores, introduction of Market Intervention Scheme and bringing culled fruits within the scheme, taking measures for tackling Scab outbreak in orchards in valley, making Mughal Road all weather and crop insurance scheme.

New Excise Policy to facilitate achievement of financial targets: Excise Commissioner

JAMMU : Jammu and Kashmir Excise Commissioner, R K Shavan today said that the new Excise Policy introduced by the UT Government would greatly help in achieving the financial targets despite COVID-19 challenges. Addressing a press Conference here, the Excise Commissioner said that the Policy is vibrant and has touched all the important issues in the larger interest of public and Union Territory of

J&K. He said the focus has been laid on transparency and openness. The Government of UT of J&K vide notification SO 275 dated 31.08.2020 issued the Excise Policy for the year 2020-21 effective from 1st September, 2020 till 31st March, 2020. In supersession of earlier Excise Policy, the new Excise Policy aims at rationalizing the tax structure to optimise revenues besides encouraging transition from High to Low Alcoholic drinks

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, H&ME Department
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT MEDICAL COLLEGE ANANTNAG
(Camp Office Associated (MMABM) Hospital, Anantnag)
Phone no.01932-227624 email: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com
NO:GMCA/ESTT./2020/8042- 49 Dated: 31.08.2020
ORDER No. 234 GMCA of 2020 DATED: 31.08.2020

Subject: Cancellation of appointment and Operation of Waiting list thereof for the post of "Junior Staff Nurse" Health and Medical Education Department (Government Medical College Anantnag) under Advertisement /Item No.08/2019/001, Divisional Cadre Kashmir.

No. SSB/Secy/56/K/44/2020/2545
2. No. ME/NG/New/GMC/01/2019 Dated 03.04.2020
3. No. 217 GMCA of 2020 Dated 07.08.2020.
4. No. SSB/Secy/44/K/2020/2897
5. No. ME/NG/NEW/GMC/01/2019 dated 26.08.2020

Whereas pursuant to recommendation of J&K Service Selection Recruitment Board No.SSB/Secy/56/K/44/2020/2545 51 dated 02.04.2020 & endorsement of Health & Medical Education Department No. ME/NG/New/GMC/01/2019 dated 03.04.2020, (04) candidates were appointed against the post of Junior Staff Nurses vide office appointment order No. 217 GMCA of 2020 Dated 07.08.2020.

Whereas within the stipulated time of 21 days from the issuance of appointment order, only (01) candidate joined in Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.

Therefore appointment in favour of candidates listed at Annexure "A", numbering (03) who failed to join in GMC Anantnag, within the stipulated period of 21 days from the issuance of appointment order is hereby cancelled ab initio.

In view of the above, the candidates figuring in waiting list under respective categories listed at Annexure "B" (numbering 03) are appointed against available vacant posts of "Junior Staff Nurse" Health and Medical Education Department in GMC Anantnag.

Whereas, Mr. Aqib Ahmad Bhat, S/O Abdul Rashid Bhat, R/O Uttersoo, Najigund Anantnag, figuring at W.L. OM 188(RBA) in the select list, whose recommendation was released vide No.SSB/Secy/44/K/2020/2897 by the JKSSRB is also appointed against the post of Junior Staff Nurse in Govt. Medical College Anantnag.

The appointment of these candidates shall be subject to the following conditions:

The appointed candidates who fail to join within a period of 21 (Twenty one) days from the date of issuance of the appointment order shall forego their right to appointment which shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio without any further notice.

Verification/Genuineness of the qualification certificates and the reserved category certificates from the concerned issuing authorities and recognition of institutions issuing degree /diploma.

The appointment of these candidates shall be governed by SO 194 of 2020 dated 17.06.2020.

The appointees shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO

The interim arrangement made against the above posts under SRO 24 dated 10.01.2019 shall be deemed to have been terminated forthwith.

The appointment in Divisional cadre is non transferable from one Division to another or from one Medical College to another.

The salary of the appointees shall be drawn and disbursed only after receipt of the satisfactory character/antecedents report from Inspector General of Police, CID, J&K and genuineness of the qualification certificates and the reserved category certificates from the concerned.

The appointment of the above candidates is subject to the outcome of the writ petition, if any, pending on the subject in any competent court of jurisdiction.

The inter seniority of the above appointees shall be as per the merit secured by them in the selection process as indicated against each in the selection list furnished by the J&K Services Selection Board.

Each candidate shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit duly signed by 1 class Magistrate to the effect

I will perform my duties to the best satisfaction of the Administration.
I will not participate in any kind of strike/protest or create indiscipline during my tenure in the college/hospital under any circumstances.
If the documents submitted by me are found wrong/incorrect at any point of time, my appointment shall be terminated immediately and criminal proceedings shall be initiated against me.
In case, if any adverse report about my character/antecedents is received from CID/Police, I shall have no claim for appointment and my appointment as such, shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio.

I will reside in the vicinity of the GMC Anantnag.

The appointed candidates shall be allowed to join only on production of following doc

Date of Birth Certificate.
Qualification Certificate (Graduation/Diploma).
Permanent residence certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
Medical Fitness Certificate.
Certificate from the concerned Deputy Director Employment and General Manager DIC to the effect that no loan under self employment scheme has been taken by the appointee.
Relevant Category Certificate, where applicable.
Any other document as required under rules.

Joining candidates for the post of Junior Staff Nurse under 194 of 2020 dated 17.06.2020.

	Jagir Parigam Pulwama
	Safapora Lar Ganderbal

Appointment of candidates for the post of Junior Staff Nurse under 194 of 2020 dated

	Panigam Bandipora Near
	Bhalla Sindra Baderwah

DIPK-4806/20 (Prof. Shaukat A. Jeelani) Government Medical College

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION
NOTICE

It is notified for below mentioned agencies/contractors to start the execution of works allotted to them as per allotments shown against each by or before 07-09-2020 failing which their allotments shall be cancelled and works shall be got executed by this Division through some other agency at their risk, cost and responsibility.

S.No.	Name of Agency	Name of work	Allotment No.
1	Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat S/o: Kh. Ab GaniBhat R/o: Rainawari Regd No: SE(R&B)SB/285/DEE/ Civil/1997-98	Construction of lane and drain from h/o GhMohd Dar upto h/o Ab Majid Dar at GanieMohalla at old Barzulla.	SMC/EELRWD/55 Dated: 30-07-2020
2	Mr. Abdul Rehman Darzi S/o: Gh. Qadir Darzi R/o: Parimpora Regd No:SE/H4D/Bud/2003-09-129-DEE/Civil	Construction of the Tile Path from the H/O Ali Mohammad to YarbGhat at Durbal Bemina Sgr	EERLWD/262 Dated: 19-03-2020
3	Mr. Parvaiz Ahmad Raina S/o: Ab Aziz Raina R/o: ZaindarMohalla Regd No: SE/DC/SMC/DEE/Civil/Sanitary/ 21/2015-16	Tiling of lane no:02 Sector C at Firdousabad-Batmaloo from main road via h/o Bilal Ahmad Ganie Ali MohdWani and others at S D Colony	EERLWD/28 Dated: 03-07-2020
4	Mr. Showkat Ahmad Baghwan S/o: Gh. Hassan Baghwan R/o: Gousia Colony Baba DempoKhanayr Regd No: SE(R&B)SB-D-448 of 2015-16	Construction of Lane/Drain Baghi Sunder Bala Right side of Jamia Masjid ShariefHaneefa Sgr.	SMC/EERLWD/17 Dated: 27-06-2020
5	Mr. Ishiyaq Ahmad Sofi S/o: Mohammad SiddiqSofi R/o: BaghwanporaBarbarshah Regd No: No. SE/Hyd/Sgr/DEE Class/09/Civil of 2010-11	Construction of Semi Deep Drain from the H/O Abdul Rashid Matta upto h/o Abdul RehmanMarazi at Nundreshi Colony-B. Bemina, Sgr.	SMC/EELRWD/2 Dated: 28-05-20
6	Mr. Sami UllahGanai S/o: M. Amin Ganai R/o: BaghiMehtab Regd No: SE/DC/SMC/DEE/Civil /Sanitary/204/2014-15	Development of lane from the h/o Mukhtar Ahmad Tantray to h/o Abdul KhaliqMalla, (Balance portion) at AramporaBarthana Parimpora	SMC/EELRWD/11 Dated: 17-06-2020
7	Mr. Tarooq Ahmad Najar S/o: Ab. RazakNajar R/o: LachmanporaBatamaloo Regd No: SE(R&B)SB-182/DEE/CLASS/ CIVIL/2000-01	Restoration of Drain from the H/O Ghulam Nabi upto Govt. Higher Secondary School at Lawaypora.	SMC/EELRWD/30 Dated: 10-07-2020
8	Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat S/o: Kh. Ab GaniBhat R/o: Rainawari RegdNo:SE(R&B)SB/285/DEE/ Civil/1907-08	Construction of Tile Lane from H/O Mohammad Ashraf Khan Via Mohammad RamzanBhat, Bashir Ahmad Khan at Mujgund Srinagar.	SMC/EELRWD/20 Dated: 01-07-2020
9	Mr. Showkat Ahmad Baghwan S/o: Ghulam Hassan Bagwan R/o: Gousia Colony BabademBKhanyar Regd No: SE(R&B) SB-D-448 of 2015-2016	Construction of lane drain from h/o Ghulam Hassan Bhat via H/O Riyaz Ahmad Gujri upto River Jehlum at Dalhassanyar near Sonam Masjid	SMC/EELRWD/16 Dated: 27-06-2020
10	Mr. Abdul Rehman Darzi S/o: Gh. Qadir Darzi R/o: Parimpora Regd No:SE/H4D/Bud/2003-09-129-DEE/Civil	Construction of lane drain near h/o Showkat Ahmad And others at Kanimazar near Park	SMC/EELRWD/264 Dated: 20-03-2020
11	M/R: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad S/O: Abdul Gani Sheikh R/O: Green View colony, Allochi bagh, sgr Class of Contractor: "DEE Class" REGD No.02/DE/SE/SMC/ JWC/2015-2016	Development of Lane by way of GSB grade 2nd including edge wall from the H/O MohdShafi Baba, Manzoor Ahmad Khan & others near Telecom Tower BSNL at Rose Lane Colony, Mehoor Nagar.	SMC/EELRWD/46 Dt:25/07/2020
12	M/R: Kifayat Hussain Malla S/O Javaid Ahmad Malla R/O Hassanabad	Construction of Lane Drain from ImamBara to H/O Gh. Mohd at Durbal Bemina Srinagar	SMC/EELRWD/85 Dt: 28/06/2019
13	M/R : Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad S/O: Abdul Gani Sheikh R/O: Green View colony, Allochi bagh, sgr Class of Contractor: "DEE Class" REGD No.02/DE/SE/SMC/ JWC/2015-2016	Construction of Lane/Drain from Imabara GogjiMohalla to H/O Gh. Mustafa to Mir Mohalla Bemina KhumaniChowk	SMC/EELRWD/43 Dt:25/07/2020
14	M/R: Parveez Ahmad Raina S/O: Late Abdul Aziz Raina R/O: ZaindaarMohalla Srinagar Class of Contractor: "DEE Civil/Sanitary" REGD No. SE/DC/SMC/DEE/ Civil/Sanitary/21/2015-16	Upgradation of front path by way of tiling flooring at Police Station Kaksarail	SMC/EELRWD/21 Dt: 28/05/2019
15	M/R: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad S/O: Abdul Gani Sheikh R/O: Green View colony, Allochi bagh, sgr Class of Contractor: "DEE Class" REGD No.02/DE/SE/SMC/ JWC/2015-2016	Reconstruction of Drain from H/O Gh. Qadir upto the Shop of Gh. Mohd Paul & others at Danawari Masjid Chattabal Srinagar	SMC/EELRWD/44 Dt:25/07/2020
16	M/R: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad S/O: Abdul Gani Sheikh R/O: Green View colony, Allochi bagh, sgr Class of Contractor: "DEE Class" REGD No.02/DE/SE/SMC/ JWC/2015-2016	Upgradation of Lane from H/O MohdRamzan upto Gh. NabiGanai at TengporaBypass2015-2016	SMC/EELRWD/47 Dt:25/07/2020
17	M/R: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad S/O: Abdul Gani Sheikh R/O: Green View colony, Allochi Bagh, Sgr Class of Contractor: "DEE Class" REGD No.02/DE/SE/SMC/ JWC/2015-2016	Reconstruction of Lane/drain from Nissar Ahmad upto H/O Ali Mohd Dar & others at GurhriMohalla Ali Kadal Srinagar	SMC/EELRWD/36 Dt:24/07/2020

No.SMC/EELRWD/1310-1321 Dated:-29/08/2020

DIPK-NB-2090/20 Executive Engineer, Left River Works Division, Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS
SHEIK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 38
ZUHR 12: 32
ASR 5:07
Magrib 7:01
ISHA 8:25

HIJRI CALENDAR
13 Muharram 1442

This Day In History

- 1960 - The first election of the Parliament of the Central Tibetan Administration, in history of Tibet. The Tibetan community observes this date as the Democracy Day.
- 1964 - Indonesian paratroopers lands in Malaysia
- Yankees at \$65,000 a season, then the biggest salary in MLB
- 1969 - The first automatic teller machine in the United States is installed in Rockville Center, New York.
- 1971 - There are further Irish Republican Army bombs set off across the region, including one in Belfast which wrecked the headquarters of the Ulster Unionist Party
- 1972 - East German sprinter Renate Stecher sets world record 11.07 to beat Raelene Boyle of Australia for the women's 100m gold medal at the Munich Olympics
- 1974 US President Gerald Ford signs Employee Retirement Income Security Act.
- 1980 - Australian cricket batsman Kim Hughes becomes 3rd player to bat on all 5 days of a Test match as the rain affected Centenary Test peters out to a draw at Lord's; BBC's John Arlott calls his final match
- 1981 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1987 - Trial begins in Moscow for West German pilot Mathias Rust, who flew a private plane from Finland to Moscow, USSR.
- 1991 - US officially recognizes independence of Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.
- 1996 - Soyuz TM-24, lands
- 1996 - A peace agreement is signed between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front in Malacañang Palace.
- 1998 - Swissair Flight 111 crashes near Peggys Cove, Nova Scotia. All 229 people on board are killed.
- 1998 - The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda finds Jean-Paul Akayesu, the former mayor of a small town in Rwanda, guilty of nine counts of genocide
- 2012 - 15 people are killed by a car bomb attack at a refugee camp in Sbeineh, Palestine
- 2012 - A decades-long ban on veiled female news presenters is lifted from State television in Egypt
- 2015 - Earth's trees number just over 3 trillion according to study in "Nature" by Thomas Crowther of Yale University
- 2015 - US President Barack Obama becomes the first president to visit the Arctic Circle at Kotzebue, Alaska

From KO Archives

JK Pleads For Autonomy, Favours 'Pro-Active Decentralisation'

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir Government today strongly pleaded for restoration of autonomy to the State while favouring the "pro-active policy of decentralization and greater delegation of power to the State".

The State's point of view was put forth by acting Chief Minister and Housing and Urban Development Minister, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Shah while participating in the 8th meeting of the Standing Committee of the inter-state Council held here to discuss the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission.

Shah clearly stated that as far as J&K is concerned, "no discussion of Central-State relations can proceed without prefacing it with a reference to our case for restoration of autonomy that our Government has mooted within the frame-work of Article 370 of Constitution of India." He said that recommendations of the State Autonomy Committee are important to bring the pattern of relations between the Union of India and the State of Jammu and Kashmir within the ambit that obtained after signing of the instrument of Accession which lasted till 9th August, 1953. He said that Autonomy Report together with its endorsement by J&K legislature is now on the National Agenda.

He said that despite certain avoidable misgivings in certain sections within the Country, the State is confident that given an objective appraisal of our case, and with our continuing efforts to familiarize our enlightened brethren, there should soon be a far more receptive endorsement of the frame-work being suggested in the report He said "it is our firm and sincere belief that the proposals put forward by us mark the first step in ensuring that Jammu and Kashmir is restored to a state of tranquility enabling us to resume the path of development and well-being as apart and parcel of the Union of India"

Referring to the Article 370 which defines J&K relationship with the Centre, Shah said that many of Sarkaria Commission's recommendations do not fully apply to J&K, but the State is nevertheless strongly in favour of a pro-active policy of greater delegation and decentralization. The process of economic liberalization currently underway reinforces the case for wider role for the states in various spheres requiring governmental intervention" he added.

Kashmir Observer, September 02, 2000

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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Fresh LAC standoff

In a fresh flare-up between India and China along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, Indian Army has pre-empted yet another Chinese attempt to intrude into Indian side of LAC at Pangong Tso lake. The attempt to transgress this time has come as a surprise as the two countries have been unsuccessfully negotiating a disengagement over the past three months. Earlier on June 15, twenty Indian soldiers were killed during a clash between the armies of the two nuclear armed neighbours at Galwan Valley. If anything, the fresh clashes between the two sides shows that the ongoing stand-off is nowhere near resolution. In fact, the fresh clash has made it even worse. It has underlined the growing unpredictability of the situation and unless resolved early to the satisfaction of the two sides could escalate into a bigger confrontation. Already, the Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat has warned of a military action to push back China from its side of the LAC if the ongoing talks fail. And with talks going nowhere and China making yet another bid at intrusion into Indian side, it seems that the options for New Delhi are narrowing dangerously.

China, on the other hand, has denied that it has intruded into Indian side. It said the two sides are communicating regarding conditions on the ground. Where do things go from here is anybody's guess. It would need the two sides to tread cautiously and ensure things don't get out of hand. A war is the last thing the region would want amid the coronavirus pandemic. India can hardly afford to be distracted at a time when the number of the Covid-19 positive cases has crossed 36 lakh and around over 65000 people have died. What is more, the number of the daily cases has shown an exponential rise, with now over 80,000 people reporting sick daily. Besides, the depleting economy hit hard by the badly implemented nationwide lockdown hardly affords the government any space for war. China, on the other hand, has successfully tackled the pandemic, even though being the country of origin of the deadly contagion.

The pragmatic option to address the stand-off is through negotiations, even if they take time, and at the same time, bolster defences along the LAC so that fresh intrusions are detected early and pre-empted, as was done in case of the latest attempt by China to take over Indian land. But the long term solution to the recurrent border tension with the communist giant is to engage in a meaningful dialogue to delineate the unresolved border. This alone will be a guarantee for a durable peace between the two countries.

OTHER OPINION

Israeli attacks in Lebanon

The Israeli attacks on Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon following what it called "cross border fires" mark a significant escalation in the crisis that has been building up along the border in recent years. Hezbollah, a Shia militia-cum-political party in Lebanon, and Israel, which have fought two wars before, have been observing a tenuous ceasefire for 14 years. Tensions began after Israel's targeting of Iranian weapons and supplies within Syria. Israel fears that Iranian supplies to Hezbollah via Syria, where the Shia militias fought alongside regime fighters against rebels and Sunni jihadists, would leave them stronger, enhancing Israel's security challenges in the northern border. In July, a Hezbollah commander was killed in an Israeli raid in Syria for which the group had vowed retaliation. Since then, there have been attempts to target troops on Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria, according to Israel. In Tuesday's attacks, Israel targeted an observation post, which the Israeli Defense Forces claimed was used by Hezbollah for intelligence collection. The raid, at a time when Israel was carrying out an air campaign in Gaza, shows the growing appetite of the newly formed unity government of Netanyahu, under fire at home over its handling of the COVID-19 crisis, for war as a means to address the simmering border problems.

Hezbollah has been a tough target for Israel. In 2000, after 18 years of occupation of southern Lebanon, Israel was forced to withdraw mainly due to the fighting of Hezbollah. In 2006, Israel invaded Lebanon, aimed at destroying Hezbollah's military capabilities. But after a month of Israeli aerial and land attacks, even on the day of the ceasefire, Hezbollah fired hundreds of short-range rockets into northern Israel. Ever since, both sides have been wary of another open conflict. Israel, which has bombed Gaza several times since its 2005 withdrawal from the strip, had been careful when it came to Hezbollah. The militants, on the other side, turned their focus to capacity building after the 2006 war, and, since 2011, to the civil war in Syria. The Baathist Syria has been a vital link between Hezbollah and Iran ever since the group was founded in the early 1980s. Mr. Assad has survived the civil war, and Iran has substantially increased its footprint in Syria, bolstering the Iran-Syria-Hezbollah axis. Israel sees this axis as a growing security challenge and hence, started the bombing operations in Syria, risking another conflict with Hezbollah. The past two wars suggest that it would not be easy for Israel, despite its military might, to defeat the battle-hardened Hezbollah fighters at their base. Hezbollah, on the other side, might resist an Israeli attack, but risks pulling Lebanon, already battling an economic crisis, political instability and the after-effects of the Beirut blast, into a wider war. Both sides should avert such an outcome and stick to the ceasefire.

The Hindu

Shifting sands of J&K politics

The joint statement issued by the signatories of Gupkar Declaration has ushered a political scenario that finds parallels in the political history of J&K

Basit Amin Makhdoomi

Finally, the signatories of the now famous Gupkar Declaration have spoken and seem to have spoken in one voice. In a statement titled "Gupkar Declaration II" issued to the press, they have vowed to fight collectively against the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. The parties, in a joint statement, described the Centre's decision to alter the region's status under Article 370 of the Constitution as "grossly unconstitutional" and a "measure to disempower" people of the former state. The parties have unequivocally and unanimously reiterated that there can be 'nothing about us without us'.

It was only a few weeks back that Mr Omar Abdullah had opened up about the thought process he seems to have evolved with regard to the developments that happened on 5th August 2019. His statement that he won't contest elections till J&K continues to remain a UT earned him a lot of brickbats. Many criticised this statement of his claiming it to be a fait accompli to the developments that were unilaterally forced by the centre on the hapless citizens of J&K. Though Omar Abdullah in his subsequent interview tried clarifying his position, but damage seems to have been done, with his party's Chief Spokesperson Aga Ruhullah Mehdi resigning, citing his difference of opinion. The opinion aired by Mr Abdullah was not the only disappointment people have had to witness. The exit of Mr Shah Faesal and the quietus that the released mainstream leaders had adopted, all failed to meet the expectations of the common masses. But the issuance of this joint statement by the political parties seem to spell a fresh showdown between political dynamics of J&K and New Delhi.

Insights into our past

The times we are made to live in since August 2019 remind us of the times Kashmir and its political pilots already seem to have tasted way back in 1953. Back then, the central government in Delhi defenestrated a popular government of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah under the garb of Kashmir Conspiracy Case. The Kashmir Conspiracy case was the legal case filed by Government of Kashmir under which Sheikh Abdullah and others were arrested and jailed. Sheikh Abdullah along with twenty two other leaders were accused of conspiracy against the state for allegedly espousing the cause of an independent Kashmir. The case was framed in 1958 only to be withdrawn in 1964 as a diplomatic decision.

This event severely dented his camaraderie and trust for New Delhi and Pandit Nehru. So infuriated was he with the centre that he started regretting and rethinking his decision of his providing the requisite popular backing of the accession of J&K with India. In 1958, in a lengthy statement, Abdullah openly started advocating right of self-determination and emphasized that until the future of Kashmir is decided, the future of the state would be protected against uncertainty and economic degradation. Following this humiliation from Delhi, Abdullah was only left with the option to either compromise his ego or to fight for the stature of his political future which had been promised to him. Not surprisingly, when he decided to take New Delhi head on, he had to face a long and incessant period of incarceration.

After dismissing Sheikh and imprisoning him, New Delhi propped up several of its proxies to legitimise its indirect rule on J&K. These proxies enjoyed minimal autonomy, were largely unpopular and were rarely consulted of larger issues confronting the state. These proxies were also tasked to project Delhi's case among the masses in Kashmir and creating an environment which would lead to the rejection of Sheikh Abdullah's idea of Kashmir Politics. It was in this context that on July 29, 1953 in a public meeting at Kulgam, the then PM Ghulam Mohammad

Bakshi declared:

"Since Kashmir voluntarily decided to become part of India, nothing has happened to alter our



faith in the correctness of our decision. Large majority of our people continue to stand by that decision and I have no doubt that they will defend the decision against any attacks that emanate from any quarter within or without the State."

These times witnessed frequent onslaughts on the constitutional status of J&K. This period also stands a testimony to the unilateral dilutions made by the centre on the promises and assurances it had furnished at the time of signing the holy document of instrument of accession. The state's autonomy faced severe erosion and there was an extensive use of force to crush disidence of any form.

All this while, Sher-e-Kashmir, as Sheikh Abdullah was popularly known, evolved Plebiscite front in 1955 with an objective for conducting political activities and mobilising people for struggle. While Abdullah commanded the loyalty of its members and guided its politics, Mirza Afzal Beg remained the titular president. With Sheikh's bitterness for Delhi at its nadir, this front headed by his most trusted lieutenant Mirza Mohd Afzal Beg, principally sought a plebiscite in Kashmir as had been promised in consonance with the resolutions passed by the UNSC. The common slogans of the Front were ye mulk hamara hai, is ka faisla ham karen gay (This country is ours, its future will be decided by us); Rai shumari forum karoa (Hold Plebiscite immediately). Apart from taking a firm stand of boycotting elections till its demands were met, Plebiscite Front also served as a principal opposition to all the Governments installed by Delhi. However, this stand enabled easy election for dummy National Conference candidates, patronised by the Government of India. Thus in the elections of 1957 and 1962 which were held under State Government, the official machinery was unaccountably used to favour candidates of ruling party.

Sheikh Abdullah continued to tread this strenuous path for a very long duration only to take a pragmatic view of things much later in 1972. In 1972, after 22 years of tussle, Sheikh Abdullah signed the infamous Indira-Sheikh accord, under which inter-alia Sheikh Abdullah dropped his demand that the people of Kashmir be given the right to self-determination. Reality seemed to have dawned upon him that he had little choice to opt from following the consolidation of India's Global might post 1971 Indo-Pak war.

His change of mind on his rigid stand on Kashmir's Right to self-determination, autonomy and restoration of pre-1953 status became known by his interview to London Times in 1972 when he stated:

Our dispute with the Indian Government was not on accession but with regard to the quantum of internal autonomy. Nobody should forget that we were the people who brought Kashmir to India who otherwise could have never become part of India.

Even though the terms of this accord were deeply unpopular, Sheikh Abdullah had to swallow the bitter pill. He acknowledged the fact of his diminished bargaining power against Delhi's might and that treading this path might keep him out of power till kingdom come.

Therefore, the Plebiscite Front that had once envisioned and promised a plebiscite to the masses of J&K was merged with National Conference and Sheikh was installed as the CM of J&K with the then incumbent immediately resigning on the diktat from New Delhi.

A Possible Rerun of History

Looking at the options that had been left on the table for our mainstream in J&K, the most convenient among the few is the embracement of the centre backed clarion calls of "Restore statehood & conduct elections". This might save them from the long and arduous battle that people and propriety expects from them. Moreover, this option also offers the comforts of clinching the power throne supplanted by the probable backdoor benevolence of the centre.

The other rigorous option is to espouse the popular sentiment and fight for a diluted version of the special status for the state of J&K. This option, though a tough one, is not a hypothetical and unreal one; keeping in view the Sons of the Soil theory reignited by the CM of Madhya Pradesh, Mr Shivraj Singh Chauhan. The recent developments in the state of Nagaland and the stand taken during the ongoing Naga talks may further be used to buttress the cause.

The last and gruelling option on the table is to seek a watertight restoration of Pre 5 Aug 2019 status or a clean status quo ante. Espousing this option needs a lot of courage, patience and perseverance. This option might delay, for years, one's ambitions to seek power and might also accompany draconian consequences. There is also a possibility of Delhi trying to write down your political obituary by tying you up in tangles through which you might never see light and our history is a testimony to this fact. This option also prescribes to rigorously pursue the matters pending before the Apex Court and hope for a favourable adjudication. This is because, politically, it seems improbable that the things done by the parliament will be undone or revoked even if power changes hands at Delhi.

Since the adherents of the Gupkar Declaration by their fresh statement seemed to have opted to up their ante and fight for a Pre 5 Aug 2019 status, only time will tell how many adherents will remain steadfast in their resolve and pursue this cause. With even a little laxity in their zest and zeal, J&K might be forced to witness a rerun of its painful historical past of making compromises.

Lastly, it will be unfair to blame history for all your failures and future machinations you tend to adopt. As Margaret Macmillan has famously remarked, "We can learn from history, but we can also deceive ourselves when we selectively take evidence from the past to justify what we have already made up our minds to do."

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Virtual Poetry Conference in the corona era

In the Corona era, in the form of offices meetings and discussions have started going online, similarly Kavi Sammelan and seminars, which are a great means of entertainment, are also being organized online. Manu Mukht 'Manav' Memorial Trust of Haryana has created a new history in the Corona era. A virtual international poet-conference was organized last evening by Manu Mukht Trust to commemorate the late IPS officer Dr. Manu Mukht 'Manav' in India, Nepal, Qatar, UAE, Russia, UK, Norway, Canada, USA, Fiji, Australia, and Poets from a dozen countries, including New Zealand, recited poems.

Today people have different opinions about such poets' conferences happening online. Some are saying

that such events are not able to give the fun, which used to come in between the applause and wah-wah in big auditoriums. By the way, the poet basically goes with two attractions at the poets' conferences. One is the remuneration, the other the listener. Both of these are missing in virtual media. Without seeing the audience's face, neither the poets' enthusiasm increases nor the poets are able to enjoy themselves without seeing the gestures of the poets. Therefore, is the system of virtual poet conventions going on in the Corona period ad hoc? How long it will be difficult to get its permanent form.

If we look at the other aspect, then the lack of applause from the direct audience makes it difficult for such a

conference. But it is also important to keep pace with the technique. Today people locked in homes are enjoying comic poems through Zoom-Facebook Live, and poets are also getting remuneration online. Such large and paid programs are mostly done by government-semi-government or private sector companies to entertain their employees. People can enjoy sitting at home on Zoom or Facebook Live.

If seen, people sitting there could enjoy the poets' conferences held in the auditoriums. But people sitting abroad are also enjoying the Kavi Sammelan happening through Zoom and Facebook Live. Often, viewers of these famous events reach millions in the audience. Small poetic symposiums can be easily conducted on vir-

tual mediums, but the joy of poet assemblages seems a bit faded on virtual mediums.

Dr. Ramnivas, Chief of the Manu-mukht Manav Memorial Trust, who has recently organized a Google seminar of poets from about a dozen countries, considers virtual poems to be different from the poems read in the seminar. He believes that the way classical music presenters often enjoy their minds with closed eyes and they do not make sense to the people sitting in the front hall. In the same way, good poetry also comes out from within. She is not happy with anyone's applause.

Dr. Satywan Saurabh
Research Scholar in Political Science,

Gupkar, The Name Behind a Declaration

Khalid Bashir Ahmad

Gupkar has remained a highly sought after residential area for the families close to power in different periods of time. If it were Brahmins during the reign of Gopaditya, during the Dogra autocracy there were Dewanas, Wazirs and Thappars who built their houses here. Likewise, during the 'popular rule', Dhars, Abdullahs, Kochaks et al. moved in.

Gupkar as the name behind a recent political declaration is catching headlines these days. On 4 August 2019, a group of politicians in Srinagar issued a statement, now known as the Gupkar Declaration, to defend the "identity, autonomy and special status of Jammu & Kashmir against all attacks and onslaughts whatsoever". Within 24 hours, the Government of India responded by stripping the State of this identity and status and breaking it into two parts. It took a full year for these politicians to say that they stood by their previous year's declaration. Critics, who see in the Gupkar Declaration a shadow of the erstwhile Plebiscite Front, say that these politicians were actually seeking to safeguard their future which had since settled down in the past. Forty-five years ago, it may be recalled, the Plebiscite Front was encashed by its leaders to win an embrace with power. Others have damned the Declaration as a 'hollow slogan' and 'absolute fallacy'. The only endorsement it received was from an unlikely quarter - Pakistan, where Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi mentioned it to embarrass Indian leadership. Unlike in the case of the Plebiscite Front, people might not have to wait for 22 years to understand what it was all about. This time, the curtains could fall sooner than expected.

The Declaration was made at the sprawling lawns of the three-time Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah's residence situated at Gupkar - hence the name Gupkar Declaration. The house was purchased by Dr Abdullah's father, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, during the early 1970s when, in the words of his close associate Mirza Afzal Beg, they were still "wandering in the wilderness" and had not returned to power which they finally did in 1975.

There are quite a few interesting anecdotes resting with the memory of local people about the building. The bungalow was under the occupation of a tenant, who happened to be an army officer, when the senior Abdullah purchased it for his eldest son. The officer was taking his own time to vacate the building which did not please its new owner. One day, the "Lion of Kashmir" lost his cool and asked the officer to vacate the building at once. There erupted an altercation between the two during which the officer allegedly pulled out his weapon. Luckily, the situation was diffused and nothing untoward happened. In another incident, it was said that when Sheikh Sahib took possession of the building he had a revenue official with him to demarcate the boundary of the premises extending towards the hill. When asked where the premises end, the Patwari, struck by Sher-i-Kashmir's overwhelming presence, stammered, Jinab yotam



toih pektiv (Sir, where you stop your walk).

That being an aside, Gupkar as a place has an ancient existence. It is a kilometre long foothill stretch from Shankar Villa, the office of the United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) in the west to the last Dogra ruler, Hari Singh's erstwhile palace, Talay Manzil, literally meaning the Abode of Luck in the east. It is a famous segment of Sonawar, an uptown locality sitting between the prominent hill of Takht-e-Sulaiman and the Jhelum River, 3.7 km south of the city centre, Lal Chowk.

Gupkar derives its name from the hill - Gopadari or Gopa - at whose feet it is situated. The hill, it may be recalled, was known by different names in the past. This included Gopadari, Jeetlark and Takht-e-Sulaiman until the name was officially changed to Shankaracharya during the Sikh rule (1819-1846). It was popularized by the Dogra regime (1846-1947) and was furthered more vigorously by the post-1947 elected Governments.

During the reign of Gopaditya, 4th century BC ruler of Kashmir, the hill was known as Gopadri or Gopa. The king, whom some sources credit with construction of the ancient stone temple atop the hill, settled at the foothill several Brahmins who had been brought from outside Kashmir [Raj. i: 341]. He granted them agharars or dwelling units at the foothill. The place came to be known as Gopa Agharar after the name of the hill. Gupkar is the corrupted form of Gopa Agharar. For Aurel Stein, the 19th century explorer who translated Kalhana's Rajatarangini, Gupkar was, "a considerable village" [Raj. ii: 290]. Thomas Moore's famous book, "Lala Rookh: An Oriental Romance", published in 1904, carries a painting of 'Gupkar Gaon' (Gupkar Village).

Gupkar has remained a highly sought after residential area for the families close to power in different periods of time. If it were Brahmins during the reign of Gopaditya, during the Dogra autocracy there were Dewanas, Wazirs and Thappars who built their houses here. Likewise, during the 'popular rule', Dhars, Abdullahs, Ko-

chaks et al. moved in. Following the outbreak of armed militancy in Kashmir in 1989, Gupkar became a high security zone where ministers and senior bureaucrats found safe abodes. Besides Farooq Abdullah, two other former Chief Ministers of Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, also reside at Gupkar, the last two in Government bungalows converted into their private residences after changing the existing rules. One of the prominent residents of Gupkar was Justice Janki Nath Wazir, who was the Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir for two decades.

During Dogra autocracy, especially the reign of Hari Singh, Gupkar was a scenic landscape

and monitored it on a daily basis. An incident taken from the local legend unveils a rather soft side of a tyrant whose rule is otherwise stained by the blood of innocents. It is said that while the construction of the palace was going on, one day close to the Muslim festival of Eid, Hari Singh observed a poor labourer in tears at the construction site. Known as a fluent speaker of Kashmiri language, Singh asked the labourer what had brought him to tears. The poor man replied that the contractor had not paid him his dues and as Eid was round the corner, he had no money to feed his family. Infuriated, Hari Singh summoned the contractor and gave him a hell.



(Unionist parties during a meeting on the eve of August 5, 2019 at senior Abdullah's Gupkar residence)

and sparsely populated. Later, especially after the 1960s, its fortune took a turn for worse as houses and offices of different Government agencies mushroomed, adversely telling upon the scenic grandeur of the area. It was once a prominent place as location of several important buildings, besides being an approach road to the Talay Manzil, the palace of Maharaja Hari Singh.

The Talay Manzil, whose name was inspired by that of Hari Singh's close friend, Nawab Talay Yar Khan, proved inauspicious for its occupant as he had to pack his bags and leave this, optimistically named, Abode of Luck in a crisis situation in October 1947 to escape the Tribal Attack on Kashmir. About the palace, it is said that the Maharaja took keen in-

terest in its construction and monitored it on a daily basis. An incident taken from the local legend unveils a rather soft side of a tyrant whose rule is otherwise stained by the blood of innocents. It is said that while the construction of the palace was going on, one day close to the Muslim festival of Eid, Hari Singh observed a poor labourer in tears at the construction site. Known as a fluent speaker of Kashmiri language, Singh asked the labourer what had brought him to tears. The poor man replied that the contractor had not paid him his dues and as Eid was round the corner, he had no money to feed his family. Infuriated, Hari Singh summoned the contractor and gave him a hell.

The Talay Manzil also has the dubious distinction of being the venue where Hari Singh's only son, Karan Singh, the 22-year old Sadr-e-Riyasat, signed the dismissal order of Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on 9 August 1953.

Among other prominent Dogra era buildings on Gupkar was the Masonic Lodge or Jadu Ghar, as locals called it, built during Pratap Singh's reign. The land for the building was allotted by the Government in 1904. The Masonic Lodge was an affiliation of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in England. Post-1947, the premises of the Lodge were used as a Charse Takyi or pot addicts' situate for many years. The building, which now houses the office of a security agency, was like a mystery house for the locals, especially the children.

Pratap Singh's another addition to Gupkar was the Gupkar Distillery, a wine manufactory. The wines made here were also exported. In 1911, as many as 228 bottles were exported to British India. However, soon the sale of liquor sharply fell and the manufactory was closed in 1913-14. Another Dogra-era building is the Farashkhana - the royal store of tents, furnishing, crockery, chafing dishes and other items used in State receptions and banquets. The store is now

under the control of the Department of Hospitality & Protocol.

The Valley's first private nursing home, the Cottage Hospital for Europeans, was also built at Gupkar in 1894. The nursing home was built to spare the Europeans in Kashmir from inconvenience of visiting hospitals thronged by local patients. In 1925, the year of Hari Singh's ascendency to the throne, the Cottage Hospital, then run with financial assistance from the British Indian Government and voluntary contribution by European visitors, was changed into a Government-aided health facility and renamed as the Kashmir Nursing Home with a newly constructed building. The Kashmir Nursing Home had the distinction of being the only private health facility in the Valley till the 1980s when the private sector in healthcare started coming up. During the 1960s, Dr Mathura Das, an eye specialist from Punjab, ran an eye clinic at Gupkar where he also performed cataract surgeries, in certain cases, allegedly, without anaesthesia.

Two of Kashmir's dreaded interrogation centres were located on the Gupkar Road at different periods of time. During 1960s and 70s, the Red-16 was the most infamous interrogation and torture centre where political prisoners and boys and men who challenged the Indian rule over Kashmir were incar-

cerated. In 1965, some captured armed infiltrators from Pakistan were also held as prisoners there. A few hundred yards from the Red-16 is located another building which was turned into an interrogation centre, known as Papa 2, and earned much infamy during the 1990s. The building later served as the residence of the then Chief Secretary and later to the two successive Chief Ministers after the Government incurred an expenditure of over Rupees one crore on its renovation. Chief Secretary Ashok Jaitly alias Tony, who first moved into the renovated building, organised religious ceremonies to ward off spirits which were reported to haunt the premises after several youth had allegedly lost their lives there during interrogation.

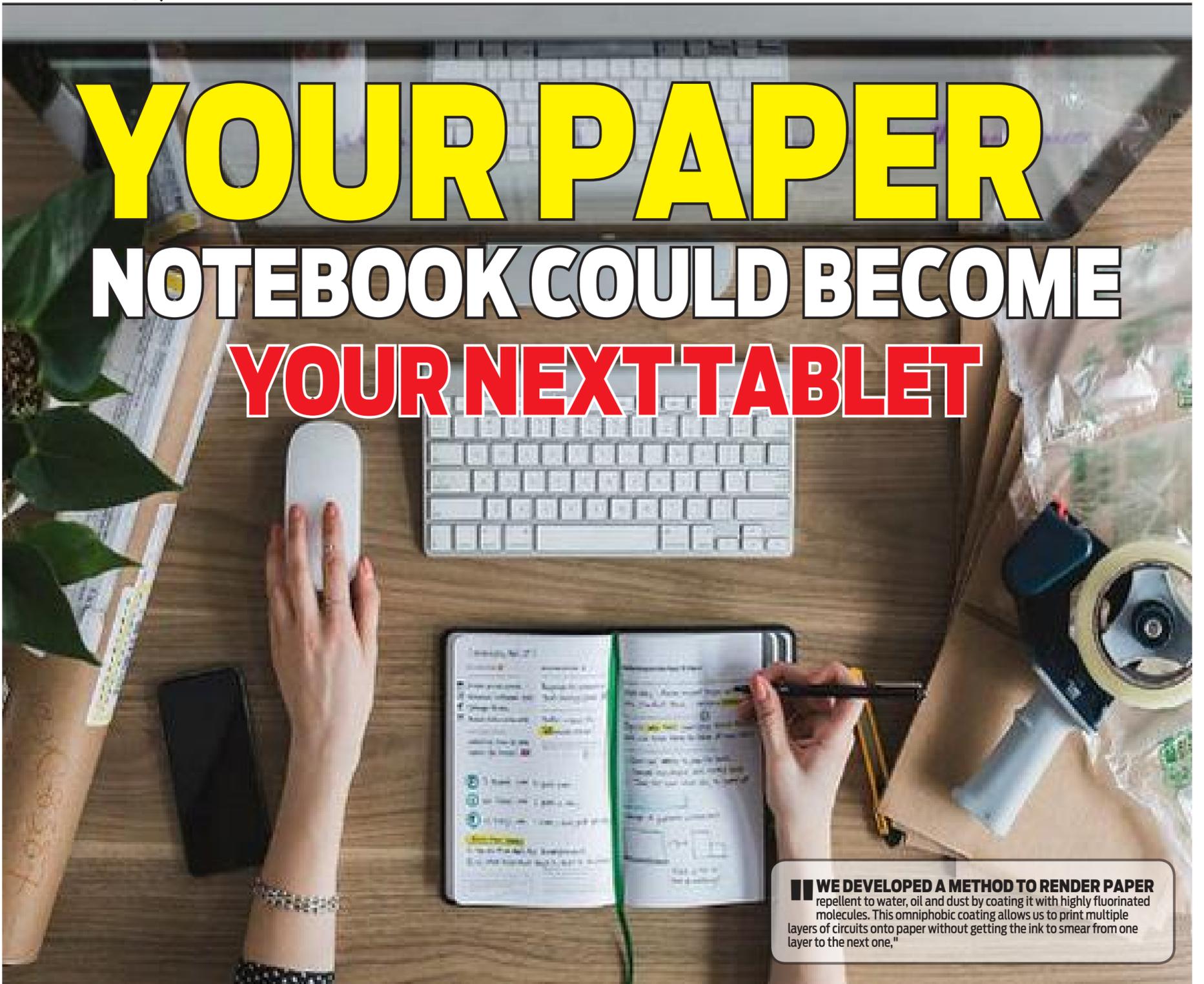
During early 1970s, a new Muslim cemetery came up at Gupkar on the slopes of the hill which is today one of the best maintained graveyards in Kashmir. The cemetery has three sections, one each reserved for the three components of Sonawar - Bonamsar, Palpora and Sonawar. Ali Mohammad Bhat, Mohalla President of Palpora was among the first persons buried in the new graveyard.

At one point in time, the Government Transport Undertaking (GTU), now State Road Transport Corporation, buses plied from Lal Chowk to Batwara via the Gupkar Road, skipping the Sonawar Bazaar, and passing through the military garrison.

Khalid Bashir Ahmad is a former civil service officer and author. His recent books include "Kashmir: Exposing the Myth Behind the Narrative" and "Kashmir: A Walk Through History"



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Agencies

Innovators from Purdue University hope their new technology can help transform paper sheets from a notebook into a music player interface making food packaging interactive. Purdue engineers developed a simple printing process that renders any paper or cardboard packaging into a keyboard, keypad or other easy-to-use human-machine interfaces. This technology is published in Nano Engine. "This is the first time a self-powered paper-based electronic device is demonstrated," said Ramses Martinez, an assistant professor in Purdue's School of Industrial Engineering and in the Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering in Purdue's College of Engineering. "We developed a method to render paper repellent to water, oil and dust by coating it with highly fluorinated molecules. This omniphobic coating allows us to print multiple layers of circuits onto paper without getting the ink to smear from one layer to the next one," added Martinez. Martinez said this innovation facilitates the fabrication of vertical pressure sensors that do not require any external battery, since they harvest the energy from their contact with the user. This technology is compatible with conventional large-scale printing processes and could easily be implemented to rapidly convert conventional cardboard packaging or paper into smart packaging or a smart human-machine interface. "I envision this technology to facilitate the user interaction with food packaging, to verify if the food is safe to be consumed, or enabling users to sign the package that arrives at home by dragging their finger over the box to proper identify themselves as the owner of the package," Martinez said. "Additionally, our group demonstrated that simple paper sheets from a notebook can be transformed into music player interfaces for users to choose songs, play them and change their volume," added Martinez.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir
MECHANICAL HOSPITAL & CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR**

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NIT SL: 58 / DAK/ 2020 54 Dt.29.08.2020

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory J&K the Executive Engineer PWD (R & B) Division Vailoo invites the sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamps worth Rs 5/ = (Rupees five) from approved Government Contractors / SHG noted against each for works mentioned below .

Up gradation of road surface by way of construction of Edge wall in mass concrete on Achabal Check Road.					
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1. These tenders should be posted in Registered post in an envelope so as reach in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division vailoo during office hours / working days on before _____ 2. Pm . on the tender form / tender booklet can be had from office of the undersigned during office hours / working days from _____ up to 2. 00 pm on cash pay(No Refundable) the Earnest money should be deposited in any bank in the shape of CDR Pledged to Executive Engineer B) Division Vailoo . Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours / working days.
The Tenderers should quote their rates in terms of percentage above / at par for all items advertised as per SSR 2012 excluding the items where the tenders have been asked to quote their own

The cost of department store will be recovered from the agency as per stock rates.
The Tenderers should submit their tenders with rates dully covered with transparent ce failing which the tenders shall be rejected.
The intending Tenderers are at liberty to cast their tenders either by hand or by post and shall be delivered starting from five days earlier to the actual date of receipt of tenders.
tender form shall be issued only after production Tin No / registration card / CDR .
If a tenderer does not quote any rate for advertised item / items, such item/ items will be loaded with highest tendered rate quoted by the contractors in this particulate NIT while evaluating the lowest tenderer . However in case such tenderer qualifies , the rate / cost of this particular item / items shall be deemed to be included in the overall contract and shall not be paid for these items / item at al
f a tenderer quotes two _____ rates for a particular item / items, the higher quoted rate will be accounted for in the comparative statement and if the same tenderer works out as the lowest tenderer , the "

Executive Engineer

DIPK-4804/20

US Police Shoot, Kill Another Black Man In Los Angeles Triggering Fresh Outrage

Agencies

Los Angeles: US police have shot dead another black man, who they said had a handgun but had dropped it during a violent altercation in Los Angeles, triggering fresh outrage as tensions soar over racism and police brutality.

The man, named in local media as 29-year-old Dijon Kizzee, was riding his bicycle when Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies tried to stop him for an unspecified vehicle code violation on Monday afternoon.

He fled on foot, and when officers caught up with him he punched one deputy in the face, dropping some items of clothing he was carrying, police said.

"The deputies noticed that inside the clothing items that he dropped was a black semi-automatic handgun, at which time a deputy-involved shooting occurred," Lieutenant Brandon Dean told reporters.

It was not clear if the man was reaching for the gun when he was shot. Dean said officials had yet to interview the deputies involved.

"So, he did not have the gun in his hand, it had already dropped to the ground, so when he was actually shot, he was unarmed at that

point?" a reporter asked during the televised press conference.

"I don't know that," Dean replied, adding later: "If this individual was reaching for a semi-automatic handgun, I would suggest ... that's probably why deadly force was employed." The man was pronounced dead at the scene.

Up to 100 people gathered at the scene demanding justice in the hours after the shooting, according to local media.

"What's the use of having the prison system if you all are just going to kill us," one woman told a CBS News reporter through tears. "What are you all here for? Who are you protecting?"

The latest killing came as US President Donald Trump was headed for Kenosha, Wisconsin Tuesday, where police shot black father Jacob Blake seven times in the back on August 23, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

Blake's shooting by a white officer ignited fresh grief and protests three months after the killing of George Floyd, who suffocated beneath the knee of a white police officer in Minneapolis in May, cracking open the most widespread civil unrest in the US since the 1960s.

Saudi king sacks commander of Yemen forces over corruption claims



Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's King Salman has sacked two royals over corruption allegations and referred them to the anti-graft watchdog for an investigation, according to state media.

In a royal decree issued early on Tuesday, King Salman removed Prince Fahd bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud as commander of joint forces in the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen, and relieved his son Prince Abdulaziz bin Fahd of his post as deputy governor of al-Jouf region.

The decision was based on a missive from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) to Nazaha, the anti-corruption committee, to investigate "suspicious financial transactions at the defence ministry".

Four other military officers were also placed under investigation. The announcement marks the latest government crackdown on what officials say is endemic corruption in the kingdom.

MBS, after becoming heir to the throne in 2017 in a palace coup, launched an anti-corruption campaign that saw scores of royals, ministers and businessmen detained in Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton hotel.

Most were released after reaching undisclosed settlements with the state.

While the crown prince

has made fighting corruption a pillar of his reforms, critics say he is moving to sideline rivals to his eventual succession to the throne, take control of the country's security apparatus and crack down on dissent.

Former Saudi spy accuses MBS hit squad of attempting to kill him (2:29)

Authorities wound down the Ritz campaign after 15 months but said the government would continue to go after graft by state employees.

In March, authorities arrested nearly 300 government officials, including military and security officers, on charges involving bribery and exploiting public office. Human Rights Watch voiced alarm over the arrests, warning of possible "unfair legal proceedings" in an opaque judicial system.

The crackdown coincided with the arrest of Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, a brother of King Salman, and the monarch's nephew Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who was previously crown prince.

Family members of Saad al-Jabri, a former top intelligence agent and aide to bin Nayef, have also been swept up in the campaign. Al-Jabri, who lives in exile in Canada, recently filed a lawsuit in the United States accusing MBS of sending a hit squad in 2018 to assassinate him.



No Country Can "Just Pretend" Coronavirus Pandemic Is Over: WHO

Agencies

Geneva: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said that he wants to see children returning to school and people going back to work, but at the same time, no country can just pretend that the global Covid-19 pandemic is over.

Addressing a virtual press conference in Geneva on Monday, he said that if countries are serious about opening up, they must be serious about suppressing transmission and saving lives, reports Xinhua news agency.

"Opening up without having control is a recipe for disaster," Tedros said.

He stressed that there are four essential things that need to be done — prevent amplifying events; reduce deaths by protecting vulnerable groups; individuals must play their part; governments must take tailored actions

to find, isolate, test and care for cases, and trace and quarantine contacts.

According to the WHO chief, decisions about how and when to allow gatherings of people must be taken with a risk-based approach and in the local context.

Meanwhile, a latest survey conducted by WHO among over 100 countries showed that 90 per cent of the nations have experienced disruption to their health services due to the ongoing pandemic.

In Monday's conference, Tedros said that according to the survey, low- and middle-income countries have been the most affected.

"The survey shows that up to 70 per cent of services have been disrupted for essential services including routine immunization, diagnosis and treatment for non-communicable diseases, family planning and contraception, treatment for mental health dis-

orders and cancer diagnosis and treatment.

"However, only 14 per cent of countries reported removing user fees, which WHO recommends to offset potential financial difficulties for patients," he added.

Tedros said that the WHO will continue to work with countries to provide tools to maintain essential services.

"For example, WHO is developing a Health Services Learning Hub, a web-based platform that will allow countries to share experiences and learn from each other."

As of Tuesday, the overall number of global coronavirus cases stood at 25,405,556 and the fatalities rose to 849,303.

The US accounted for the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 6,028,617 and 183,579 respectively, while Brazil came in the second with 3,908,272 infections and 121,381 fatalities.

Iran Leader: UAE 'Disgraced Forever' by Israel Deal

Agencies

DUBAI, September 1 (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates has betrayed the Islamic world and the Palestinians by reaching a deal toward normalising ties with Israel, Iran's top authority Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday.

"Of course, the UAE's betrayal will not last long, but this stigma will always be remembered. They allowed the Zionist regime to have a foothold in the region and forgot Palestine," Khamenei said in a speech.

"The Emiratis will be disgraced forever for this treachery against the Islamic world, Arab nations and Palestine."

When asked about Khamenei's statement on the UAE-Israel deal, UAE Foreign Ministry official Jamal Al-Musharakh told reporters in Abu Dhabi: "The path to peace and prosperity is not paved with incitement and hate speech."

Khamenei made his comments as a delegation of senior Israeli and U.S. officials, including White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, concluded a historic trip to Abu Dhabi to finalise the pact.

"The UAE along with Israelis and evil Americans like the Jewish member of Trump's family are working together

against the interests of the Islamic world," Khamenei said, referring to Kushner.

"I hope Emiratis wake up and compensate for what they did."

The delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi on an El Al flight on Monday, the first direct commercial passenger flight



between the UAE and Israel.

The deal, the first accommodation between an Arab country and Israel in more than 20 years, was forged in part as a result of shared fear of Iran. It has dismayed Palestinian leaders, however, who believe it further erodes their struggle for an independent state.

The UAE has said that the agreement was a bold but necessary step and suggested it could help address the region's polarisation.

The Trump administration has tried to coax other Sunni Muslim Arab countries concerned about mainly Shi'ite Iran to engage with Israel.

Faced "Grave Threat" Due To Qatar's Support For Terrorism, Extremism: UAE

Agencies

The Hague: The United Arab Emirates accused Qatar on Monday of backing "terrorism and extremism" as the three-year-old Gulf diplomatic crisis returned to the UN's top court.

Abu Dhabi urged the Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) to throw out a case brought by Doha claiming measures taken against Qatar amounted to racial discrimination.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE and several other allies severed ties with Qatar in a shock move in 2017, accusing Doha of backing terrorism and siding with their regional rival Iran.

They imposed an effective blockade by land, air and sea, and ordered the expulsion of Qatari nationals. Qatar dragged the UAE to the ICJ a year later seeking to get the measures lifted.

The allies faced a "grave threat brought by Qatar's support for terrorism and extremism," Abdallah al-Naqbi, director of the international law department at the UAE foreign ministry, told the court via videolink.

"This has nothing to do with racial discrimination."

Qatar's case at the ICJ says that the UAE's actions breached the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

"Gulf rift"

Qatar is due to give its response on Wednesday, with the

rest of the hearings — which are all taking place by videolink due to the coronavirus pandemic — due on Friday and Monday.

But a final ruling by the ICJ, which was set up in 1946 after World War II to rule in disputes between member states of the United Nations, could take years.

The court issues binding judgments but has no means of enforcing them.

The crisis between Qatar and the Saudi-led blockading nations shows no sign of relenting despite rising international pressure to end the feud.

The alliance has issued a raft of terms Qatar must accept before it will lift the embargo that includes a ban on direct air, land or sea trade.

Doha strongly denies the allegations and has refused to meet the demands that also stipulate the closure of its flagship state-run broadcaster Al Jazeera.

The UAE's Al-Naqbi said that his country and Qatar "share historical bonds dating back to ancient times", and that Abu Dhabi was "open to close the Gulf rift" with the help of third parties.

"Build bridges"

Doha had already acted to address "imperfections" in its initial response, such as holding off any deportations and allowing Qataris to enter the UAE "subject only to an application process and security screening," he said.

Children in Wuhan return to school



Agencies

Beijing: Children returned to school on Tuesday in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, the original epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic that underwent months of lockdown but which has not seen new cases of local transmission for weeks.

State media reported 1.4 mil-

lion children in the city reported to 2,842 kindergartens, primary and secondary schools as part of a nationwide return to classes.

Life has largely returned to normal in Wuhan, where the novel coronavirus was first detected late last year. After what critics called an attempt to ignore the outbreak, the city underwent a 76-day lockdown

during which residents were confined to their homes and field hospitals opened to assist an overwhelmed medical system.

Wuhan marked a milestone on Sunday when its last confirmed case, a patient who brought the virus from overseas, was released from a city hospital. AP

52 Black ex-franchisees sue McDonald's for racial discrimination

Chicago: More than 50 Black former McDonald's franchise owners are suing the burger chain, saying the company steered them to less-profitable restaurants and didn't give them the same support and opportunities given white franchisees. The 52 plaintiffs, who owned around 200 US stores before being forced to sell them over the last decade, are seeking compensation of USD 4 million to USD 5 million per store, according to the lawsuit.

The suit was filed Tuesday in federal court in Chicago, where McDonald's is based.

According to the lawsuit, McDonald's steered Black franchisees to stores in inner-city neighbourhoods with lower sales volumes and higher security and insurance costs.

The company would provide

them with misleading financial information or push them to decide quickly when a store became available, the lawsuit says.



Once Black franchisees owned a store, they would be asked to rebuild or remodel within a shorter period of time than white franchisees without the rent relief and other financial support given to white franchisees, the lawsuit says.

Black franchise owners were

also denied the chance to buy more profitable stores in better neighbourhoods, it says.

As a result, the plaintiffs averaged sales of USD 2 million per year. By comparison, McDonald's average US store brought in USD 2.7 million annually between 2011 and 2016 and USD 2.9 million in 2019, the lawsuit says.

Revenue is determined by one thing and one thing only: location, said James Ferraro, the Miami-based attorney representing the plaintiffs.

It's a Big Mac. They're the same everywhere. Ferraro also noted that the number of Black McDonald's franchisees has fallen by half over the last two decades.

The chain had 377 Black franchisees in 1998; it has 186 now. At the same time, the number of franchised restaurants has more than doubled to 36,000.

Kite sweeps 3-year-old girl 100ft into the air in Taiwan

A three-year-old girl has survived being swept 100 feet into the air by a kite during a festival in Taiwan.

Horrified onlookers shrieked as the child was helplessly catapulted and spun around high above them after strong winds caused the giant, long-tailed orange kite to wrap around her waist at the seaside town of Nanliao, near Hsinchu City.

Video footage posted on social media on Sunday showed the child soaring in the air for some 30 seconds as a crowd of festivalgoers gathered to pull her back down to the ground to safety.

The child, identified only by the surname Lin, was frightened but suffered only minor scratches to her face and neck, according to local news reports.

She was taken to hospital and was sent home shortly after.

The fourth edition of the kite festi-



val was cut short after the incident and Lin Chih-chien, the mayor of Hsinchu City, apologised on social media.

"We will review the reasons to avoid the recurrence of accidents, and we will take accountability," he wrote on Facebook.

Sharif gets last chance

Islamabad: A Pakistani court on Tuesday gave a "last chance" to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to surrender and appear before it on September 10 for hearing in a corruption case against him, according to media reports.

Sharif, 70, has been in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treating a heart disease and an immune system disorder. The three-time premier was sentenced to seven years in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills case. A two-member special bench of the Islamabad High Court — comprising Justice Amir Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani — on Tuesday heard the petitions against the sentences of Sharif, daughter Maryam Nawaz and son-in-law Captain (ret'd) Saifdar in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia Steel Mills cases, Dawn News reported.

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